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THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

the Museum to give the student, designer, lecturer, or casual visitor all information possible to help him in his chosen profession, or to see the collections with the least possible exertion.

JULIET W. ROBINSON.

THE MUSEUM LIBRARY

THE Library of the Museum, a reference library open to all visitors and especially serviceable to the student, contains over 39,000 volumes, covering varied subjects related to art, both fine and industrial, from the earliest times to the present.

The sections that cover Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan, and Roman art are particularly well equipped, embracing not only the most scholarly works, but also sets of society publications and the leading magazines published in the interest of these arts.

The section of Oriental art (both of the Near and Far East) contains an abundance of material, including a number of important works on the arts of China and Japan, also a large number of samples of woven fabrics, among which are gold and silver laces, of Indian manufacture.

Architectural books of a general nature are in the Library, but no effort has been made to specialize in this line, it being unnecessary on account of the proximity of the splendid Avery Architectural Library at Columbia University.

Painting and sculpture, both ancient and modern, form large and important sections; a great number of the books on these subjects are those that have appeared during the past fifty years, including catalogues of European mu-

seums, exhibitions, and private collections.

For several years past there have been published a number of works that reproduce the drawings by the Old Masters and also by some of the modern artists. Most of such reproductions, which are of the highest quality of printing, may be found in the Library.

Books on ornamental design and decoration are also quite numerous—among them many works in colors.

The sections of the Library that comprise the works on the industrial arts include ceramics, furniture, tapestry, lace, embroidery, glass, both stained and domestic, jewelry, metalwork, musical instruments, etc: all of these are comprehensive in their scope and that of tapestry is perhaps the best library collection on that subject in the country.

Books on arms and armor are quite numerous and among them are many that contain photographic reproductions of the exhibits in European galleries and private collections.

Guide books, such as Baedeker's and Murray's, of which there are complete sets, and other books of travel, may be found.

Such subjects as Numismatics, History, Heraldry, Biography, Philosophy, Religion, etc., are also represented.

American and European sale catalogues of works of art are to be found in large numbers, and by means of these catalogues the provenance of pictures and the prices paid are often obtained. The collection of Messrs. Christie, Manson & Woods (the London auctioneers) catalogues is an ex-

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ceptional one, and together with Redford's invaluable work on Art Sales gives an almost complete record of pictures sold in England since the eighteenth century. Catalogues of sales in other countries are numerous and these, together with the large work by Mireur, *Dictionnaire des Ventes d'Art pendant les XVIII^{me} et XIX^{me} Siècles*, prove of great value.

As periodicals that give reports of current events in the fields of archaeological research, accounts of exhibitions, collections, etc., are a necessary adjunct to the Library, effort has been made to secure all such periodicals and thus supply the needs of students of archaeology and of the fine and industrial arts. Among those subscribed for are English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Japanese, Russian, Italian, and American publications. Besides the current periodicals, there are many sets of which publication has ceased.

For a long time, there was need of some way to discover the name of a painter or a sculptor when only the title of the work in question was known; and since no book, as far as the writer knows, contains such information, it was decided to prepare a catalogue of such titles as would acquaint one with the needed facts. This work was commenced several years ago and has progressed so satisfactorily that at present the catalogue contains upward of 60,000 titles. When any of the pictures so catalogued are reproduced in colors, as many of them are, such fact is noted on the catalogue card.

Since there is such a dearth of information concerning the lives and

works of most of the contemporary artists, except that which appears in magazines and newspapers, much of which is not classified and published in any way that will be of assistance to librarians or students, all of the material procurable has been gathered together and preserved in such a manner that it is ready for immediate use when needed. This collection has already reached large proportions and is of great value in supplying much needed information.

There are two separate collections in the Library that are worthy of note. One is that of the books bequeathed by the late Edward C. Moore, who was for many years connected with the firm of Messrs. Tiffany & Co. In this collection are a number of rare books on the various arts and crafts, such as would be found in the library of a connoisseur. The other collection is that of Frankliniana formed by the late William H. Huntington and bequeathed to the Museum. This collection, though small, contains many items of interest. In addition to the books there are a number of engravings and lithographs of Franklin, Washington, Lafayette, and other persons of Revolutionary fame.

The writer trusts that with this brief description of the contents of the Library he has made it evident to the reader that it contains an adequate supply of material that should prove of assistance to those who are interested in the study of the collections in the Museum and in art in general. The Library is open on weekdays from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. and until 6 p. m. on Saturdays.

WILLIAM CLIFFORD.